

EDITORIAL

CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

Last week brought no new sensations for North Carolina readers. No new eruptions of Judge Purnell, Judge Peebles or the A. & N. C. Railway managers were reported. And the general feeling was that the News and Observer would overwork the opportunity for glorifying Editor Daniels so generously given by Judge Purnell, and bring on a reaction; that Judge Peebles had owed it to himself and to the judiciary not to stop the investigation while charges of such seriousness were hanging over him, and that as for the A. & N. C. Railway—well, that any kind of solution promising a little rest from the unending marching and counter-marching would be gratefully received.

The Colorado Mine Trouble.

In National affairs the only matter of overshadowing importance was the Colorado mine troubles. These have been brewing for months, and seem to have grown out of the mine owners' organization refusing to recognize or tolerate the miners' organization, or recognize the laws of the State made in the interest of labor. A strike resulted, anarchy followed, and Teller County has been under martial law since December, the union miners being subjected to all sorts of indignities.

In Independence, Col., Monday, an infernal machine was arranged by some of the criminal class of union laborers, and twelve "scab" or non-union miners blown to pieces by it. Matters coming to this crisis, the Governor declared martial law in a considerable section of the State, and sent State troops to drive out the union miners. Wednesday a conflict occurred in which six unionists were killed outright and fifteen injured. Many others were arrested or ordered to leave. In Cripple Creek an effort is being made to pledge every merchant, business man or employer of labor not to hire any union man. "Every person connected with any union here must either sever his or her connection with such organization or leave the district," is the decree of the Citizens' Alliance. Virtual anarchy prevails, and even more serious disturbances may be reported in the next few days.

Russo-Japanese Encounters.

To our old veterans who lived through the times of stress and storm in the 60's, our recent wars in Cuba and South Africa have seemed like child's play, but this Russo-Japanese struggle is real war. The death grapple is now on at Port Arthur, though weeks may yet elapse before it is finally decided. The last great battle was that of Nanshan Hill, and here, as usual, the Japanese displayed a heroism little less than marvelous. The details of this battle as published last Friday make interesting reading: "After the first ineffectual attack on the hill the Japanese scouts discovered that there were mines at some spots at the foot of the hill. It was determined that they could be definitely located by the sacrifice of some men. Hundreds volunteered to go to what appeared to be certain death. They led the second advance and found that heavy rains had washed away the covering of earth and had exposed the mines. Engineers cut the connecting wires, rendering the mines useless, and sustained no loss. The volunteers were nearly all killed in the subsequent ineffectual attack on the hill. The Osaka men, from the right wing, while advancing through the water along the shore, encountered a body of Russians, also in the water. A fierce fight ensued, both sides being waist deep in the sea. When the Russians finally retreated, the water was literally crimson. Both sides lost heavily. In the awful charges up the hill, whole companies of the Japanese were shot down. Still,

the survivors swept forward, showing a contempt for death that would render any force invulnerable. At last the artillery was brought to bear, and under its protection a desperate rush of infantry drove the Russians from the position."

In this bitter struggle the Japs lost 731 men killed and 3,506 wounded.

Port Arthur is now cut off from telegraphic communication with the outside world, but the practical value of Marconi's discoveries is shown by the fact that the Russians are nevertheless receiving wireless messages from their besieged fortress.

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If Japan Wins.

When the war began, few people thought it possible for Japan to win. But the intense patriotism of the people—amounting to not merely a willingness but even an eagerness on the part of the soldiers to die for the cause—in connection with many examples of sheer good luck, seems to have turned the tide in favor of the Japanese forces. It is like that old fable of Aesop's of the dog which, being reproached for returning from the chase without the hare, replied: "Ah, the hare was running for his life; I was merely running for my dinner." It is a fight for life on Japan's part.

And so the philosophers and statesmen are even now beginning to ponder on the probable results of the Japanese victory. The awakening of China is one of the results which all seem to foresee. Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, writing in the North American Review, makes good use of this in his plea for American sympathy. "It is not a thoughtless statement," writes the ambassador, "that were Japan to obtain supreme control in Manchuria the dominant military spirit of the Japanese would lead them to organize the Chinese into a modern army of such proportions that Europe and America would stand aghast at this menace to their peace and well-being. This is a phase of what has been called the 'yellow peril' that it would be well for the thoughtful and intelligent classes to consider carefully. The Chinese make good soldiers. To suppose them to be pusillanimous in character is erroneous. They are easily trained by competent instructors, and with a population of more than four hundred and thirty millions to draw from, an army could be raised that, co-operating with Japan, might, with a reasonable show of confidence, defy the civilized world."

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National Politics.

The Republican National Convention meets Tuesday of next week, the Democratic State Convention Thursday of next week, and the Democratic National Convention within three weeks, and yet the only reasonably certain thing as to either Presidential or Gubernatorial candidates is that the Republicans will name Mr. Roosevelt. And the question of his running mate is even more puzzling than that of the Democratic Presidential candidate. It is generally admitted that the party would like to have Speaker Cannon, but he positively refuses to allow his name to be considered. There is much interest in the announcement that Secretary Cortelyou has been selected to succeed Senator Hanna as National Chairman, though it would surprise most of us if he should develop anything like the dead Ohioan's ability as a campaign manager. Cortelyou was the personal selection of President Roosevelt, who is directing many campaign details himself, and has selected the five orators who are to make the nominating speeches for him in the Chicago Convention. One of these is Harry Stillwell Edwards, the Georgia author, and the other representative of the South is a Maryland negro lawyer. The Republicans admit that New York is not surely Republican, but believe that they can win without it, and earnest efforts will be made to carry the border Southern States—Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri. In

Missouri President Roosevelt is urging the Republicans to accept Mr. Folk, the Democratic nominee for Governor, and concentrate their efforts on the electoral ticket.

In the Democratic contest, Judge Parker is still in the lead, though his nomination is far from certain. Well might he pray to be delivered from his friends—from David B. Hill, his manager, who has made so many enemies in his own party; from Belmont, the representative of corporation influence, and from Cleveland, whose zeal has done much to alienate Bryanites who would otherwise have supported Parker.

Of the 994 delegates in the National Convention, 668 have now been chosen, 202 of these being for Parker, 143 for Hearst, and the remainder uninstructed. Parker's positive strength of 202 is as follows: Alabama, 22; Connecticut, 14; Georgia, 26; Indiana, 30; New Hampshire, 4; New York, 78; Ohio, 4, and Tennessee, 24. Hearst's positive strength consists of the following delegates: Arizona, 6; California, 20; Florida, 3; Iowa, 26; Kansas, 1/2; Maine, 3; Massachusetts, 6; Nevada, 6; New Mexico, 6; Ohio, 11; Oregon, 6; Rhode Island, 6; South Dakota, 8; Washington, 6.

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North Carolina Politics.

In North Carolina politics, there is little excitement aside from the race for the Gubernatorial nomination. That all the present State officers will be renominated is a foregone conclusion—except the Governor, of course, who is prohibited by the Constitution from holding two terms in succession. Ex-Judge Francis D. Winston, too, now seems certain to be named for Lieutenant-Governor, although there is so much dissatisfaction with his selection that some other candidate might even yet defeat him. But the only other avowed candidate at this time is Geo. L. Morton, of Wilmington, and he is has a millstone about his neck in the shape of his anti-temperance record. The leaders have agreed on Senators Simmons and Overman and Governor Aycock as National delegates and it is believed that Gen. J. S. Carr will be the fourth man. Judge George H. Brown is the only candidate from the East for Supreme Court judge, and Judge Hoke will defeat Judge Justice for the Western nomination.

But public interest has been so absorbed in the Glenn-Stedman contest that but little attention has yet been given to these other matters. It still looks like a neck-and-neck race between the Greensboro man and the Winston man, though the friends of each have figures to show their man in the lead. And the contest is now waxing bitter. Charges and counter charges are being made by partisans of the two candidates. The Glenn men assert that Major Stedman has never worked so zealously for the party as Glenn has, while the Stedman men reply that Glenn is rash and unsafe and that the Governor's place is by far too responsible a position to be given merely as a reward for fervid campaign oratory. It looks now as if the contest may become so heated that the friends of neither of the two candidates will gracefully accept the nomination of the rival, and that some other candidate may win the nomination. In that event, Lieutenant-Governor Turner might be the man, though an ex-Lieutenant-Governor, R. A. Doughton, of Alleghany County, would possibly prove an even more formidable candidate if he should permit the use of his name.

We were very fortunate last week in having as a contributor Mr. John Charles McNeill, the talented Scotland County author and poet, the excellence of his work for other periodicals having been recognized by us in the number of his articles we have reprinted. We are sure that every reader of our paper enjoyed his observations on the stock law, and we trust that we shall have the pleasure of printing other contributions from his pen.